

**REMARKS**

As indicated above, this is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 10/096,509.

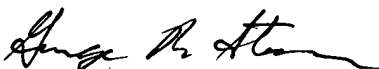
Claims 1-17 have been canceled and claims 18-36 have been added in order to prosecute the claims which were non-elected in the parent application.

The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,  
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



George N. Stevens  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 36,938

GNS/alw  
Atty. Docket No. **020285A**  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE